

CIRCULAR

Sub: Annual Plan 2021-22 - Scheme on Soil Health Management and Productivity Improvement - 'Soil Ameliorants in Selected Districts' -working instructions- reg

Read: (1) G.O.(Rt) No.251 12019/AD dated.08.03.2019.
(2) Order No.ADFW I507 I 2020 -TP2 dated 08.06.2020
(3) Order No.ADFW 1507 12020-TP2 dated 18.08.2020
(4) Annual Plan 2020-21.
(5) G.O.(Rt) No .393 12020/ Agn datcd.22/04 /2020.
(6) Order No. ADFW/3 16212021-TP2 dated: 23.04.2021

As per the reference 1st cited, Government have accorded sanction for the inclusion of the component 'Soil Ameliorants in Selected Districts' under the scheme "Soil and Root Health Management and Productivity Improvement" in the Green Book for implementation during the year 2019-20. Continuous Sanction was accorded for the scheme during the financial year 2020-21 vide reference (6) cited. During the financial year 2021-22, there is a budget provision of Rs.3050.00 lakh for the above mentioned scheme under head of account 2401-00-800-28 (P) out of which an amount of Rs 3000 lakh is set apart for the component 'Soil Ameliorants in Selected Districts'

Soil is the basis of farming activity. Soil health is the basic factor for optimising crop productivity. Soil acidity is a major issue in Kerala soils and about 90% of the soil are acidic with over 50% strongly to extremely acidic. Application of soil ameliorants and nutrients based on soil testing, help in augmenting crop production. One of the detrimental effects caused by the recent floods in farming sector is the multiple damages to soil, both in wetlands and garden lands. Heavy flow of water has eroded the fertile top soil, landslips/landslides has changed the topography of large extent of area, flood water which remained stagnant in the field has deposited sand and silt over the top soil, changing the soil structure and texture, blocked soil aeration, altogether making once fertile cultivable lands unfit for cultivation. Soil became more acidic due to these reasons. Correcting soil acidity is very much essential in this condition. Since soil acidity is a major issue in Kerala soils, amelioration of soil has to be given top priority and this component is included as a systematic intervention in correcting soil acidity to improve soil fertility status.

Objectives:

1. To correct the soil acidity (pH) and improve the soil fertility status and thereby the crop productivity.
2. To improve the intake of primary, secondary and micro- nutrients by the crops by improving soil health status.
3. To sustain good soil health through improved agricultural practices.